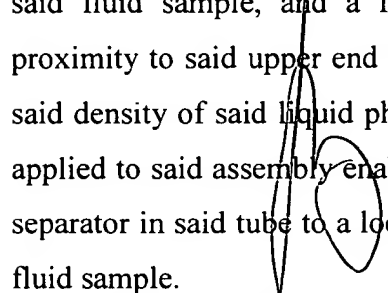
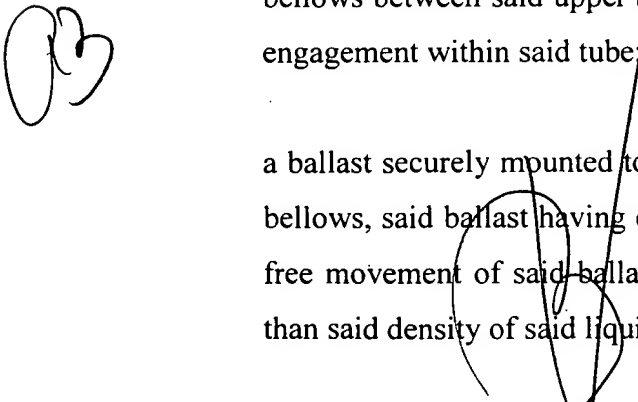


a closure sealingly engaged with said open top of said tube; and


 a separator comprising a deformable bellows having an upper end and a lower end, portions of said bellows between said upper and lower ends having an unbiased shape for sealing engagement with said cylindrical sidewall of said tube, a ballast securely mounted in proximity to said lower end of said bellows, said ballast being dimensioned to be spaced inwardly from said cylindrical sidewall of said tube and having a density greater than said density of said liquid phase of said fluid sample, and a float engageable with portions of said bellows in proximity to said upper end of said bellows, said float having a density less than said density of said liquid phase of said fluid sample, whereby centrifugal forces applied to said assembly enable elongation of said bellows and movement of said separator in said tube to a location between said formed and liquid phases of said fluid sample.

10. (amended) A separator for use with a blood collection tube to enable separation of blood into a formed phase with a relatively high density and a liquid phase with a relatively low density, said separator assembly comprising:


 a deformable bellows having an upper end and a lower end, portions of said bellows between said upper and lower ends having an unbiased shape for sealing engagement within said tube;

a ballast securely mounted to said bellows in proximity to said lower end of said bellows, said ballast having cross-sectional dimensions smaller than said tube for free movement of said ballast in said tube, said ballast having a density greater than said density of said liquid phase of said blood; and

a float engageable with portions of said bellows in proximity to said upper end of said bellows, said float having a density less than said density of said liquid phase